

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, January 16, 2004

MAYOR AND CHIEF PRESENT PSA RESTRUCTURING PLAN

Mayor Williams and Chief Ramsey this week presented the DC Council with a PSA restructuring plan that will provide new boundaries for the District's Police Service Areas (PSAs) and some police districts. The new structure is designed to enhance police services in DC neighborhoods and to increase community involvement in the MPDC's "Policing for Prevention" community policing strategy. This will be accomplished by aligning the PSAs more closely with DC neighborhoods, improving police coordination with other city services in addressing problems that impact crime, and giving PSAs the staffing flexibility to fight crime more effectively at the neighborhood level. The plan reduces the total number of PSAs from 83 to 43, which will allow for better management, leadership, oversight and accountability. In addition, the new structure will provide greater flexibility in police efforts to target crime "hot spots" and address specific neighborhood crime problems. The PSA restructuring plan was first presented to the community at the Mayor's Crime Forum II in May 2003. Since then, the MPDC has held a series of community meetings and other forums throughout the city to gather input on the proposal and make adjustments. The DC Council now has a 60-day period in which to review the proposed new boundaries. The MPDC anticipates implementing the new structure shortly after the 60-day review period.

- ① Read the news release announcing the PSA restructuring plan at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2517>
- ① Maps of the proposed new PSA and police district boundaries are available at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/PSAs_proposed.shtml
- ① To find out what PSA you currently live in, use the "PSA Finder," available at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtml>
- ① To learn more about the structure and work of the PSA teams, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/pfp/psateam.shtml>

WINSTON ROBINSON PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT CHIEF FOR ROC-EAST

Chief Ramsey this week announced changes in the MPDC's command ranks, including the promotion of Winston Robinson Jr. to Assistant Chief in charge of Regional Operations Command (ROC)-East, which includes the Sixth and Seventh Police Districts. Robinson became a Metropolitan Police officer in August 1970, and he has served in a variety of leadership positions over the years. Since 1993, he has been commander of the Seventh District, where he directed the implementation of community policing and helped to forge important crime-fighting partnerships with the faith community. Robinson fills the Assistant Chief position previously held by Jose Acosta, who retired from the MPDC earlier this month to join the Transportation Security Administration. Chief Ramsey also announced that Commander Abraham Parks has been reassigned from the Court Liaison Division to commander of the Seventh District. Parks is a 31-year MPD veteran who previously headed up the Youth and Family Services Division, the Property Division, the Fourth District and, most recently, the Court Liaison Division. Commander Evelyn Primas, a 25-year veteran of the MPDC, assumes leadership of the Court Liaison Division, which oversees the scheduling and appearance of MPD officers at trials and other court-related activities.

- ① For more information, read the news release at:
<http://www.mpd.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2522>
- ① To learn more about the structure and leadership of the MPDC, view the organizational chart at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/org/orgchart.shtml>

MPDC ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS

Mayor Williams this week announced that family members of homicide victims in the District will be receiving additional services from the MPDC through its new Family Liaison Specialist Unit. Staffed by specially trained family liaison specialists, the new unit offers survivors of homicide victims a wide range of services, including basic crisis intervention and emotional support, information about the criminal justice system, advocacy and updates on the status of homicide investigations. The unit will also refer family members to other District agencies and resources that serve victims and survivors, including DC's Crime Victims Compensation Program. The FLS Unit, which officially began operations this week as part of the MPD's Violent Crimes Branch, is focusing on new homicide cases from 2004, although it is also reaching out to family members of victims killed in cases that remain open from the past few years. The Mayor said the work of the family liaison specialists will do more than improve the level of services provided to family members of homicide victims. The unit will also support the criminal investigation process, and ultimately help to raise the homicide clearance rate, by improving communication and trust between detectives and family members.

TWO 5D OFFICERS SHARE "OFFICER OF THE MONTH" HONORS FOR JANUARY

This past summer, Fifth District Officers Christopher Westerman and Danny Walker received a radio assignment for two children apparently drowning in a swimming pool. The officers rushed on the scene and immediately jumped in, in an attempt to rescue the children. With the assistance of members of the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, the two officers were able to retrieve the children. The victims were transported to the hospital, but tragically, all attempts at resuscitation were unsuccessful. For their selfless lifesaving efforts, Officers Westerman and Walker were honored as the Department-wide Officers of the Month during the monthly CHAMPS awards ceremony held on January 7. The officers had no way of knowing the condition of the drowning victims, how long they had been in the water, or what the ultimate outcome of their lifesaving efforts would be, but they did not hesitate in their attempts to save two young lives. Walker and Westerman (who received a second CHAMPS award this month) were among 21 MPDC members who were recognized during the January awards luncheon, which was held at the Washington Marriott Hotel.

NEWS & NOTES

CCTV Cameras To Be Activated. As an added security precaution, the MPDC will activate its Joint Operations Command Center and its network of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras during two events in the upcoming week: on Tuesday, January 20, for the President's State of the Union address; and on Thursday, January 22, for the annual "Right to Life" march in Washington, DC. Details about the CCTV system, including camera locations, are available at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/CCTV.shtm>.

MOA Progress Report Published. The latest quarterly report outlining the MPDC's progress in implementing the Department's Memorandum of Agreement with the US Department of Justice on use-of-force issues has been published. It is available (in PDF) at http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/FIT_progress_0104.pdf.

Project ChildSafe Gun Lock Program. Registered firearms owners in DC are reminded that they can obtain free gun locks through the MPDC's Firearms Registration Section through the national Project ChildSafe initiative. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/childsafe.shtm>.

① Read about all of their heroic actions at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2004/01.shtm>

① CHAMPS—which stands for Capital Hotels Awards Metropolitan Police Service—is sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. Learn more about this monthly award program at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/champs.shtm>

① The FLS Unit is supported by \$220,000 in Victim Assistance Funds, awarded by DC's Justice Grants Administration. Read the news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2525>

① More on the FLS Unit, including contact information, is available at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/fls.shtm>

① To learn about other programs and resources to assist crime victims in DC, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/victims/victims.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 1/16/04)

- 2004: 14
- 2003: 9
- % Change: +55.6%

Adult Arrests (week end. 1/10/04)

- Total: 704
- Drugs: 127
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 22
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 17

Firearm Recoveries (as of 1/13/04)

- January 88
- 2003 Total: 1,982

Traffic Fatalities (as of 1/16/04)

- 2004: 3
- 2003: 2
- % Change: 50.0%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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